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THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

1. Make first plantings of gladioli now. Subsequent plantings will provide a succession of bloom.
2. The planting of roses, fruit trees, and spring flowering shrubs should be first on the gardening list.
3. If you want shade in the summer, give a thought to planting bare root shade trees now.
4. Set out the following bedding plants for early spring bloom: Snaps, stocks, baby primrose, pansies and violas.
5. Roses and fruit trees should be planted now.

Hardwood is Popular for Floor Base

An estimated 20,000 new homes built in Southern California in 1955 have hardwood floors, according to a study by the Hardwood Flooring Council of Southern California. The Council reported that shipments of oak flooring to Southern California for residential construction last year were 25 times greater than the volume of flooring shipped to the area in 1945.

The 600 per cent increase in a 10-year period was attributed to the constantly enlarging public demand for residential hardwood flooring. This is in part due to the fact that new homes that are supported by the general high income level.

The hardwood flooring industry in the United States produced a record-breaking 1,207,384,900 square feet of flooring material in 1955. This is enough to cover the entire floor area of the much publicized country of Monaco 41 1/2 times with enough left over for a huge ball room.

The first step in renovating an older home should be to convince neighbors whose homes are in similar need of repairs and improvements to undertake the work when you do.

This is the advice of the Southern California Plastering Institute. It pointed out that much greater property value increases for the same renovation investment can be gained if all or most buildings in older sections of communities are renovated, than if only one owner improves his property while his neighbors leave their buildings in a run-down condition.

Property values have been increased by as much as two thousand per cent when improvements of blighted areas have restored all buildings to good condition, the institute revealed.

Frequently many homes in an area need the same type of repairs and improvements. A contractor called in for such work is often able to reduce costs to home owners if he has several similar projects close together.

Increased property values can only be maintained if improvements are permanent rather than "patch-up" work intended to "get by for awhile," the institute warned. Plaster has gained wide use in remodeling old wood frame buildings because of its ability to give the appearance of new modern construction to both exteriors and interiors, as well as high fire protection.

Camellias Just Right for New Home Gardens

California's a growing, bustling state, there is no doubt about that. The population is increasing rapidly and there are thousands of new homes going up all over the state.

These new homeowners and potential gardeners are a lucky bunch for in no other state would they have it so good. Tropical and other exotic flowers and plants can be grown in California and many nationally favorite flowers bloom more beautifully and for a longer period here in the Golden State.

The camellia is one of the most widely planted flowers in the state for it does well in most locales. A native of the Orient the camellia is an ancient flower and has been grown in China for many centuries. Basically, a small, ornamental evergreen shrub it blossoms throughout the winter and spring months in a multitude of hues and flower forms.

Three Species
The three species of camellias generally found in California gardens are: Japonica, Reticulata and Sasanqua, with Japonica by far the most popular. Each can be planted in several interesting ways in the garden.

Formerly the camellia was considered a collector's item and, as such, a difficult flower to grow. But no more, says the California Association of Nurserymen for if the simple cultural requirements are met the camellia will perform for all gardeners.

For easy success with camellias follow these rules of thumb: First, mix the soil with about 50 per cent of peat moss or leaf mold to give it the necessary acidity; use a much of the same material; assure yourself of perfect drainage; feed fertilizers that give an acid reaction, applying a light amount as new growth starts and again after one flowering period.

Plant in Shade
Also, plant where there's shade a good part of the day or under deciduous trees for filtered shade in summer; water regularly so that the soil is moist continuously and in summer a syringing of the leaves is very beneficial.

Camellias can be planted in a great many unusual ways. Of course, there's the usual groupings in the garden or along paths in the yard. But try them also in containers in the patio or along the entrance way to your house. Both the Reticulata and Japonica are fine container subjects. The Sasanqua, however, being more open in habit, does better grown or even espaliered against a wall for tracery effect. Sasanqua camellias are outstanding landscaping subjects and shouldn't be overlooked when you're picking out Japonica and Reticulata varieties, too.

Introduce yourself to the

Floribundas Are Versatile

When is a rose more than a flower?

When it's a Floribunda!—for this recent development in rose types has a many-sided personality and can serve in your garden as a border plant, container item, hedge or filler with perennials.

Probably, many California gardeners do not realize the versatility of the Floribunda rose, says the California Association of Nurserymen. They think of it as a rose bush and that's the end of it. But the planting rules the Floribunda can fill are many and varied. Floribundas with perennials is one planting style least often thought of by gardeners but what a wonderful garden feature it can be. Floribundas grow in many rich shades of red, yellow, orange, pink and white and when combined with perennial favorites like the blue and white Delphinium, the gray of Dusty Miller or the pinks and white of Stock, the result is a color rainbow, delightful to the eye!

Because of their free-blooming habit and because most Floribunda plants are bushy, they make an excellent border beauties and landscaping possibilities of the camellia. Your nurseryman can suggest the best varieties for your locale and assist you in the proper planting methods, too.

California is noted for its commercial forests. The terrain and climate provide optimum conditions for its native commercial timber species. California's forests produce more than one-eighth of the annual lumber output of the United States.

for garden walks or for garden beds. The taller growing Floribundas in their full blooming form will make practical and beautiful hedges for you.

Another unusual style of Floribunda planting is in containers such as movable boxes and tubs. Choose your favorite Floribundas and plant them one to a box, unless you have a very long window-box type of container, in which case you can set in several rows. Then for added interest, especially during the rose's dormant period, plant an attractive ground cover. Make sure, of course, that the ground cover doesn't hamper the Floribunda's growth.

Try some of these unusual planting styles with your Floribundas. Your garden will be more attractive, all because of the versatile Floribunda.

Water, range, wildlife and recreation in timbered areas add greatly to California's forest wealth. Under modern, planned forest management all these important resources build and prosper together.

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Ask Neighbors Before Working Improvements

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Iko on Flower Show Group

Appointment of Art Iko, of Torrance, to the City Flower Growers Committee of the California International Flower Show was announced by Manfred Meyberg, general chairman, recently.

The show, to be held at Hollywood Park, Inglewood, March 17 through 26, is a non-profit civic event sponsored by the Southern California Horticultural Institute, Inc., and the Southern California Floral Association. Facilities of Hollywood Park are contributed for the event.

Skilled harvesting of timber under scientific selection methods is one of the best tools for keeping heavily-used forest recreation areas safe and in good condition.

California forest industries sponsor a Free Farm program to encourage the continuing production of timber crops from privately-owned lands.

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